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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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New concepts of protection for wildlife species, new legislation, and new methods of enforcement will have to be developed to meet the increased threat to wildlife occasioned by improved transportation facilities, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said today in calling attention to the need for observance of National Wildlife Restoration Week from March 17 to 23.

"It takes no seer to visualize that increased transportation systems mean the eventual spread of highways into many areas which, because of their remoteness, have been more or less reservoirs for the production of wildlife in comparative security," he declared. Likewise, the development of large air bases, supplemented by smaller landing fields, means the eventual development of fast transportation service by air to the most remote sections of the continent."

Distances will no longer be the barrier in protecting wildlife that they have been in the past, according to the Service director. Plans for super highways to supplement the existing road systems and plans for airfields to be located all over the face of the continent are already in existence.

In addition to the threat of expanded highways and airways, there are also in various stages of planning something over seven billion dollars worth of dams for irrigation, flood control, navigation, and the development of hydro-electric power which will materially change the character of many of the waters of the country, he said. Sometimes several of these objectives are combined in one structure or in a series of structures.

"Such a development program cannot fail to have profound effects upon the wildlife and fishery resources of the country," he continued. "Whether those

effects are good or bad will depend to a considerable extent upon the alertness, intelligence and energy of the conservation forces of the Nation."

During National Wildlife Week, which is sponsored annually by the National Wildlife Federation and observed nation-wide, Dr. Gabrielson urged conservation-minded persons who are the friends of wildlife to interest themselves as groups or individuals in proposed construction projects in their various communities to ascertain if full consideration will be given to the protection of fishery and wildlife resources.

"Water management, soil conservation, reforestation and revegetation of non-forested lands, and fish and wildlife conservation are all elements in one general conservation picture," he said. "The closer that fish and wildlife conservation can be correlated with and worked into the programs of the other agencies engaged on national programs, the better it will be for our wildlife resources."

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